

- 1        1.    A processor-based system comprising:  
2                a display;  
3                a user operable element positioned over the  
4 display to enable viewing of the display through the  
5 element, said operable element having a non-monotonic  
6 response to user actuation; and  
7                a switch operatively coupled to the operable  
8 element.
- 1        2.    A processor-based system as recited in claim 1  
2 wherein the display is a cathode ray tube.
- 1        3.    A processor-based system as recited in claim 1  
2 wherein the display is a liquid crystal display.
- 1        4.    A processor-based system as recited in claim 1  
2 wherein the user-operable element is a push button.
- 1        5.    A processor-based system as recited in claim 1  
2 wherein the user-operable element is a rocker.
- 1        6.    A processor-based system as recited in claim 1  
2 further comprising a lens positioned over the display to  
3 enable viewing of the display through the lens.

1           7.    A processor-based system as recited in claim 1  
2   further comprising a light pipe positioned over the display  
3   to enable viewing of the display through the light pipe.

1           8.    A processor-based system as recited in claim 10  
2   wherein the light pipe comprises a fiber optic bundle.

1           9.    An apparatus comprising:  
2                a processor;  
3                a display operatively coupled to said processor;  
4                a user operable element positioned over the  
5   display to enable viewing of the display through the  
6   element, said operable element having a non-monotonic  
7   response to user actuation; and,  
8                a switch mechanically connected to the operable  
9   element and electrically coupled to the processor.

1           10.   An apparatus as recited in claim 9 wherein the  
2   user-operable element is a push button.

1           11.   A processor-based system comprising:  
2                a touch screen display;  
3                a user operable element positioned over the  
4   display to enable viewing of the display through the  
5   element, said operable element having a non-monotonic  
6   response to user actuation; and,

7           a contactor operatively coupled to the operable  
8 element such that actuation of said element causes contact  
9 with the touch screen display.

1           12. A processor-based system as recited in claim 13  
2 wherein the user-operable element is a push button.

1           13. A processor-based system comprising:  
2           a display;  
3           a user-operable element positioned over the  
4 display to enable viewing of the display through the  
5 element;  
6           a switch operatively coupled to said operable  
7 element; and  
8           a resilient element connected to said operable  
9 element such that operation of said operable element is  
10 resisted with a non-monotonic force.

1           14. A processor-based system as recited in claim 13  
2 wherein the resilient element is a rubber dome.

1           15. A processor-based system as recited in claim 13  
2 wherein the resilient element is a coil spring which breaks  
3 out of column in response to compressive force.

1           16. A processor-based system comprising:  
2               a display;  
3               a user-operable element having a lens positioned  
4 over said display to enable viewing of the display through  
5 the lens; and,  
6               a switch operatively coupled to said operable  
7 element.

1           17. A processor-based system as recited in claim 16  
2 wherein the display is a cathode ray tube.

1           18. A processor-based system as recited in claim 16  
2 wherein the display is a liquid crystal display.

1           19. A processor-based system as recited in claim 16  
2 wherein the user-operable element is a push button.

1           20. A processor-based system comprising:  
2               a display;  
3               a user-operable element having a light pipe  
4 positioned over said display to enable viewing of the  
5 display through the light pipe; and,  
6               a switch operatively coupled to said operable  
7 element.

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1        21. A processor-based system as recited in claim 20  
2 wherein the display is a cathode ray tube.

1        22. A processor-based system as recited in claim 20  
2 wherein the display is a liquid crystal display.

1        23. A processor-based system as recited in claim 20  
2 wherein the user-operable element is a push button.

1        24. A processor-based system as recited in claim 20  
2 wherein the user-operable element is a rocker.

1        25. A processor-based system as recited in claim 20  
2 wherein the light pipe comprises a fiber optic bundle.

1        26. A method comprising:  
2            providing a user-operable element for  
3 installation over a display;  
4            providing a transparent part on the user-operable  
5 element that allows a portion of the display to be viewed  
6 through said element; and  
7            creating a non-monotonic response to actuation of  
8 said element.

1        27. A method as recited in claim 26 wherein providing  
2 a transparent part includes providing a lens.

1        28. A method as recited in claim 26 wherein providing  
2 a transparent part includes providing a light pipe.

1        29. A method as recited in claim 26 wherein providing  
2 a user-operable element includes providing a push button.

1        30. A method as recited in claim 26 wherein providing  
2 a user-operable element for installation over a display  
3 includes providing an element for installation over a touch  
4 screen display.